

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0176
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0752

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT CH TW
SUBJ: REFERENCE NEWS PRINTS FOREIGN COMMENT ON NPC

REF: PEKING 0750

1. USLO HAS OBTAINED COPIES OF FEBRUARY 25, FEBRUARY 25
AND MARCH 6 ISSUES OF THE LIMITED CIRCULATION TSAN KAO HSIAO
HSI (REFERENCE NEWS), COVERING THE PERIOD JUST BEFORE AND
JUST AFTER THE FIFTH NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS. WESTERN
WIRE SERVICE STORIES REPRINTED IN THE PAPER DEAL WITH THE
NPC IN LARGELY STRAIGHTFORWARD AND POSITIVE TERMS, ALTHOUGH
TWO REUTERS PIECES DESCRIBE THE CONGRESS AS A "RUBBER STAMP"
ORGANIZATION. MOST COMMENTARY EMPHASIZES THE THEME OF
STABILITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DRAWING EXPLICIT
COMPARISONS WITH THE TURMOIL OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION. A
YOMIURI ARTICLE IN THE FEBRUARY 25 ISSUE EMPHASIZES THE
LEGALITY AND OPENNESS OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

2. THE ONLY ARTICLE ON THE NPC WITH SLIGHTLY NEGATIVE
OVERTONES IS A FEBRUARY 21 MAINICHI EDITORIAL CARRIED IN
THE FEB 25 ISSUE. THIS EDITORIAL,
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IN OUTLINING CHINA'S AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR THE "FOUR MODERNIZATIONS",
POINTS OUT THAT THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZATION COULD LEAD TO
GREATER DISPARITIES BETWEEN THE CITIES AND THE RURAL AREAS.

3. THE ARTICLES IN THE MARCH 6 ISSUE, WRITTEN JUST AFTER
THE NPC ISSUED ITS FINAL COMMUNIQUE, CONTAIN NO REAL ANALYSIS
OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS. INSTEAD,

THEY NOTE THE BEGINNINGS OF STREET DEMONSTRATIONS CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE NPC, AND SEVERAL ARTICLES ALSO REPORT ACTIVITIES IN COMMEMORATION OF CHOU EN-LAI'S 80TH BIRTHDAY.

4. AN ASAHI COMMENTARY OF MARCH 4, PRINTED IN THE MARCH 6 REFERENCE NEWS, ANALYZES THE NEW CPPCC CONSTITUTION WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO ITS STATEMENT ON THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. ASAHI IS QUOTED AS SPECULATING THAT THE PRC'S NEW ATTENTION TO UNITED FRONT WORK DIRECTED AT TAIWAN IS A RESPONSE TO THE CONTINUED RELUCTANCE OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO CUT TIES WITH TAIPEI. THUS THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP, ACCORDING TO ASAHI, HAS DECIDED TO STEP UP EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY AMONG OVERSEAS CHINESE, TO FURTHER ISOLATE THE TAIWAN LEADERSHIP IN ORDER TO FORCE THEM INTO TALKS WITH PEKING. WOODCOCK

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NNN

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